

**MARVEL**  
**COMICS**

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BY THE  
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CODE  
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AUTHORITY

**AT  
LAST!**

**THE CAJUN  
X-MAN  
IN HIS OWN  
LIMITED SERIES!**



CREOLE MOTHERS IN THE FRENCH QUARTER OF NEW ORLEANS TELL THE STORY OF THE STRANGE, DARK MAN WHO ROLLS IN WITH THE FOG OFF THE MISSISSIPPI ONCE EVERY SEVEN YEARS.

THE LEGEND IS USED TO FRIGHTEN BAD LITTLE CHILDREN.

FEW PEOPLE HAVE EVER ACTUALLY LAID EYES UPON THE STRANGER.

BUT ALL WHO HAVE GROWN UP ON THE STREETS REMEMBER THE TALES, HEARD ON THEIR MOMMA'S KNEES.

TALES OF...

...THE  
TITHE  
COLLECTOR.

HE WALKS THE STREETS TRAVELED BY FEW BUT THE MOST FOOLHARDY OF TOURISTS.

FAR AWAY FROM BOURBON STREET AND THE SOUND OF THE JAZZ BANDS.

IT HAS BEEN SEVEN YEARS.

TIME FOR ANOTHER "BUSINESS TRANSACTION."

WOE TO ANY WHO INTERFERE WITH THE TITHING.

"THE TITHE COLLECTOR IS GOIN' GET YOU IF YOU DON'T BE GOOD, CHILD!"

REMEMBER YOUR MOMMA'S WORDS...

... AND LIVE!











**BAKOOM**

GOTCHA!  
AND NOW...

...HOLD  
TIGHT,  
THERE!

I'LL  
BE HAVING  
YOU FREE  
AND FLYIN'  
AGAIN  
PRONTO!

'SCUSE  
ME,  
SUGAR...

...IF  
I DON'T  
NEED--  
--OR WANT--  
YOUR  
HELP!

...BUT  
DON'T WORRY,  
YOU DON'T  
HAVE TO  
THANK  
ME!

THOUGH...  
YOU, ME  
AND A  
CANDLE-  
LIT  
DINNER  
WOULD  
BE --

YOU WON'T  
BE GETTING  
ANY  
THANKS  
FROM ME,  
GAMBIT!

NOW  
WATCH  
YOUR  
MOUTH...  
...AND  
YOUR  
BACK!

TOO  
LATE,  
PETITE

**WHOOOM**



MEAN-  
WHILE...

WHEN THE  
MOMENT IS  
RIGHT...

... A MAN WILL  
BREACH THE  
X-MANSION'S SECURITY.

AND EVEN  
IF THE  
MUTANT  
TEAM KNEW  
HE WAS  
COMING...

THERE IS LITTLE THAT THE  
COULD DO TO STOP HIM

INCREASING  
PROGRAM  
INTENSITY.  
LEVEL  
SIX.

ENGAGE.

YOU  
SURE  
ABOUT  
THIS,  
STORM?

EMOTIONS BEEN  
RUNNIN' HIGH  
BETWEEN THE  
CAULIN AND  
ROGUE.

GIVEN  
THEIR  
UNRESOLVED  
ROMANTIC  
STATUS...

... DON'T  
YOU  
THINK  
WE'RE  
PUSHIN'  
IT?

THAT'S  
THE POINT  
OF THE EXERCISE,  
WOLVERINE.\*

WE  
MUST  
KNOW  
IF...

DON'T GET PREACHY  
ON ME, ORORO. I KNOW  
THE DRILL ABOUT SEEN' IF  
THEY CAN CUT IT AS PART OF THE TEAM.

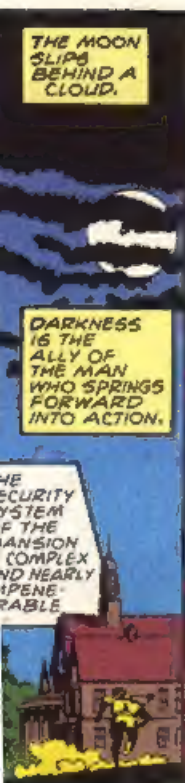
I STILL  
THINK IT'S  
MIGHTY  
COLD.

BUT  
NECESSARY.

WE'LL  
SEE.

\* THESE EVENTS  
TAKE PLACE BEFORE  
WOLVERINE # 75.





THE MOON  
SLIPS  
BEHIND A  
CLOUD.

DARKNESS  
IS THE  
ALLY OF  
THE MAN  
WHO SPRINGS  
FORWARD  
INTO ACTION.

THE  
SECURITY  
SYSTEM  
OF THE  
MANSION  
COMPLEX  
AND NEARLY  
IMPE-  
NE-  
TRABLE



MOST  
WOULD NOT  
MAKE IT  
PAST THE  
FIRST LINE OF  
DEFENSE.

MOST  
WOULD  
NOT  
TRY.



SMOOTH,  
FOCUSED  
MOVEMENTS  
MAKE THE  
IMPOSSIBLE  
APPEAR EASY.

PAUSING  
TO CATCH  
HIS  
BREATH,  
THE MAN  
OFFERS  
A PRAYER  
TO THE  
SAINTS  
THAT  
FUTURE  
JOBS  
WILL BE  
LESS  
TAXING.



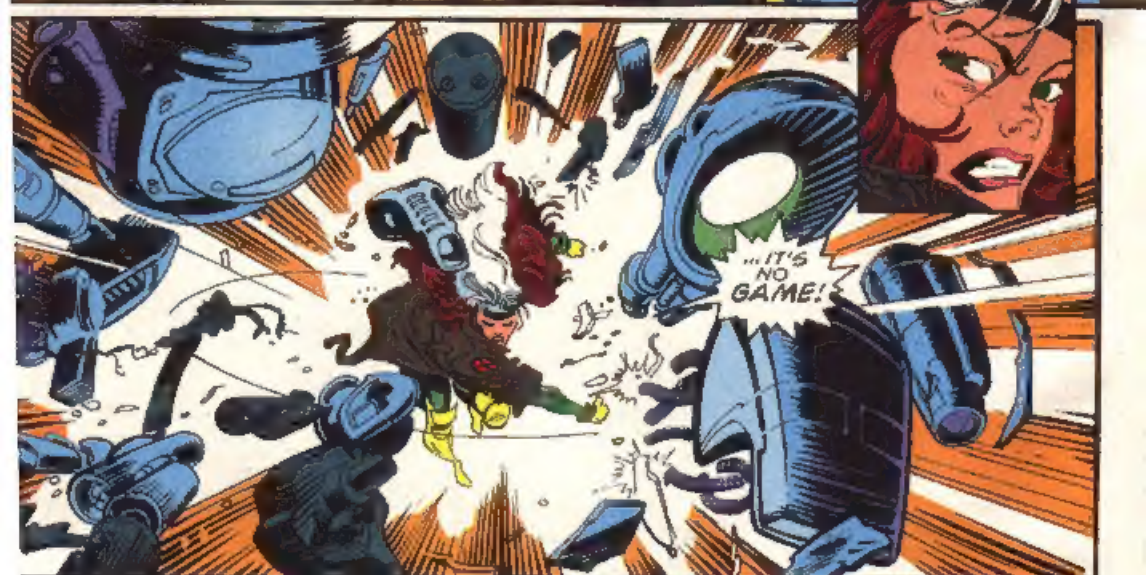
THOUGH,  
HE  
WOULD  
ADMIT  
THIS TO  
NO ONE.



COME,  
THERE...  
SMILE!

THERE'S  
NO REASON  
FOR US NOT  
TO BE HAVING  
FUN WITH  
THIS LITTLE  
GAME!

GAMBIT!  
THIS IS THE  
DANGER  
ROOM!  
AND...



...IT'S  
NO  
GAME!





PSH!  
YOU ARE  
TOO  
SERIOUS!



LIFE  
IS A  
GAME!

AND,  
IF YOU  
GIVE ME  
THE  
TIME...

...AND  
THE  
OPPORTUNITY...



...I'LL  
SHOW  
YOU...

...YOU...



GAMBIT!  
INCOMING!  
BEHIND  
YOU!



GAMBIT!



REMY!



SOMETHING HAS  
GONE WRONG. I  
AM INITIALIZING  
TERMINATION  
SEQUENCE--

NOT  
SO FAST,  
DARLIN'.

YOU  
WANTED TO SEE HOW  
THEY  
OPERATE  
UNDER  
COMBAT  
CON-  
DITIONS...



"...LET IT PLAY. THEY  
CAN HANDLE IT."

**FWAKDOOM**

SEQUENCE  
END.

TOLD  
YA.

NOW  
ISN'T  
THIS A  
COZY  
LITTLE  
TETE A  
TETE  
CHERE?

LOVE  
TO STAY  
HERE ALL  
DAY,  
BUT...

"...IT'LL  
HAVE TO  
BE 'NOTHER  
TIME

WE  
GOT  
COMPANY.

GAMBIT,  
WHAT...?





THE SHADOWS OF THE MANSION REACH OUT AND EMBRACE THE INTRUDER.

HE MAKES NO SOUND...

...DISTURBS NOTHING.

...AS HE SILENTLY SLIPS THROUGH THE STILL NIGHT.

HIS PASSAGE IS NEARLY IMPERCEPTIBLE.

UNTIL...

Tsk!  
Tsk!

NOT GOOD ENOUGH, M'FRIEND.

NO MOVES.

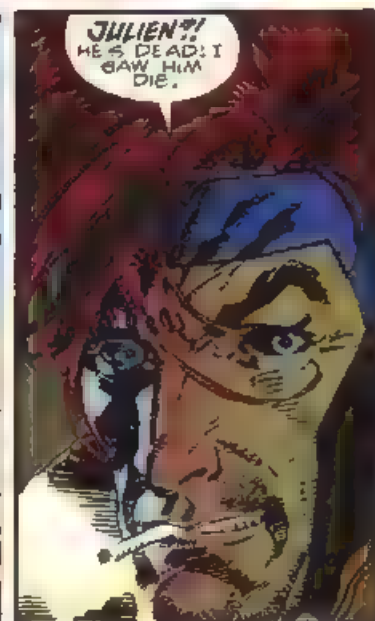
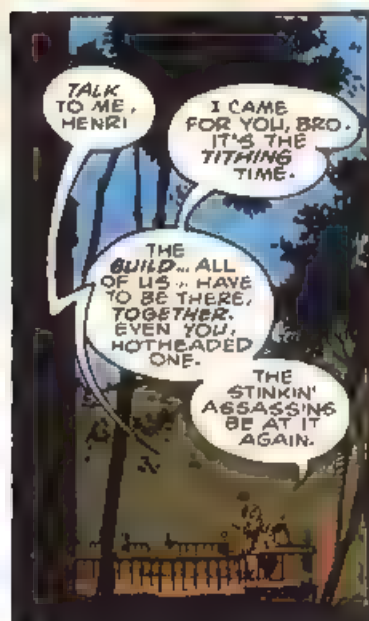
WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO LOSE YOUR HEAD, NEH?

PUT DA CARD AWAY, REMY!

YOU STILL A THIEF, I HOPE...

...NOT AN ASSASSIN!







NOT ALL  
T'INGS  
ARE AS  
DEY SEEM,  
BRO'.

YOU  
KNOW  
DAT;

COME  
HOME, REMY.  
IT'S FAMILY.  
ANT NOthin  
MORE IMPORTANT  
THAN THAT



**FVROOSH**



IT'S THEM, REMY...  
THE ASSASSIN'S  
GUILD

"THEY  
DONT WANT  
THE TITHING  
TO TAKE  
PLACE."

YOU'RE  
NEEDED. YOU  
KNOW DERE  
WAYS. DONT LET  
DEM GET IT. IT'S  
OURS

WE'VE EARNED  
IT... USE WHAT  
YOU KNOW... FIND  
OUT WHAT YOU  
DONT

WHAT I KNEW OF  
THE ASSASSINS  
DED WITH  
BELLA DONNA,  
HENRI

I'M  
SORRY

NOT  
ALL  
T'INGS  
ARE  
AS DEY  
SEEM  
BRO'.

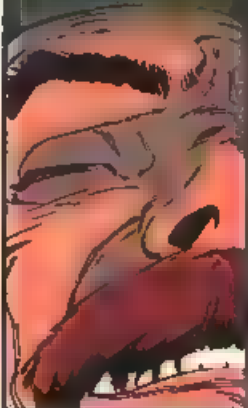


GO  
SEE FOR  
YOURSELF...

TAKE  
ME  
HOME  
REMY

WHAT  
DO YOU  
MEAN,  
HENRI?  
WHAT  
ABOUT  
BELL-

TAKE  
ME TO  
OUR  
FATHER



YES...  
BROTHER







I GOT  
THEIR  
SCENT.

TWO OF 'EM,  
HEADING  
TOWARD  
SALEM  
CENTER



WE  
CAN  
CATCH  
THEM  
EASY

NO

I GO  
ALONE.

THIS IS  
A FAMILY  
MATTER.

HENRI  
LEBEAU  
WAS MY  
BROTHER.

I'M GOIN'  
WITH  
HIM

WE  
ALL  
SHOULD!

WOLVERINE!  
WHAT?!

NO,  
DARLIN',  
WE  
STAY.

IT'S WHAT HE  
WANTS.

THE CAUN'S  
GOTTA HANDLE  
THIS H.M.  
SELF.

IT'S A BLOOD  
DEBT.

AND I  
PITY  
THOSE  
ON THE  
RECEIVING  
END.



NEW ORLEANS.

IN A CHAMBER, FAR BELOW THE DARK COBBLE-STONE STREETS OF THE FRENCH QUARTER.

THE HIGH COUNCIL OF THE THIEVES BUILD GATHER AND MAKE PREPARATIONS FOR COMING EVENTS.

THE TITHE COLLECTOR OF OUR **BENEFACTRESS** WILL SOON ARRIVE. THE CEREMONY WILL COMMENCE TOMORROW.

ALL OUR FAMILIES HAVE BEEN SENT WORD TO RETURN WITH THEIR TRIBUTE.

FOR SOME, IT WILL BE THE FIRST TASTING OF THE ELIXIR.

I PROPOSE THAT REMY **LEBEAU** BE PERMITTED TO ACCEPT IT THIS YEAR.

NO DISRESPECT, JEAN-LUC, BUT REMY?

HE IS YOUNG, BRASH, IMPULSIVE AND NOT TRULY ONE OF OURS.

LET US SEE IF HE EVEN HAS THE COURTESY TO HONOR HIS FAMILY WITH HIS PRESENCE.

LET US SEE.

PARIS FRANCE...

THE WOMAN NAMED **CANDRA** GAZES OUT UPON THE CITY OF LIGHTS.

IN HER LONG LIFE, SHE HAS SEEN MANY NEW LIGHTS ADDED TO THE PARISIAN SKYLINE.

FOR SHE IS MUTANT WITH THE ADDITIONAL GIFT OF LONG LIFE.

SHE IS AN **EXTERNAL**





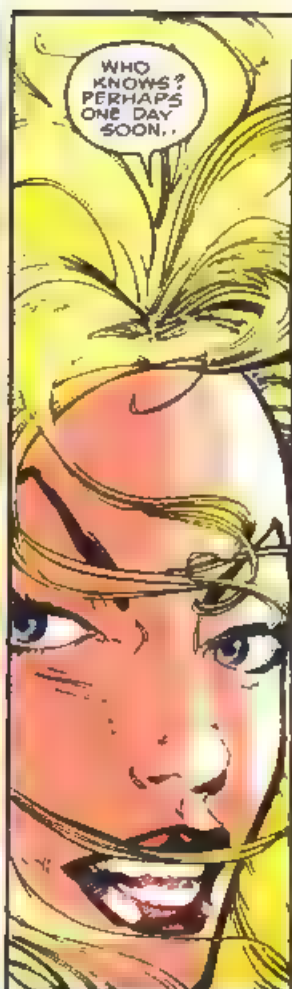
EVERY  
THING  
GOING AS  
PLANNED,  
BEAUTIFUL  
ONE?

IT  
ALWAYS  
DOES,  
GIDEON



NOTHING  
EVER  
TRULY  
CHANGES  
FOR  
US.

AT  
TIMES, I  
CRAVE FOR  
SOME  
EXCITEMENT  
IN THIS  
LONG  
LIFE.



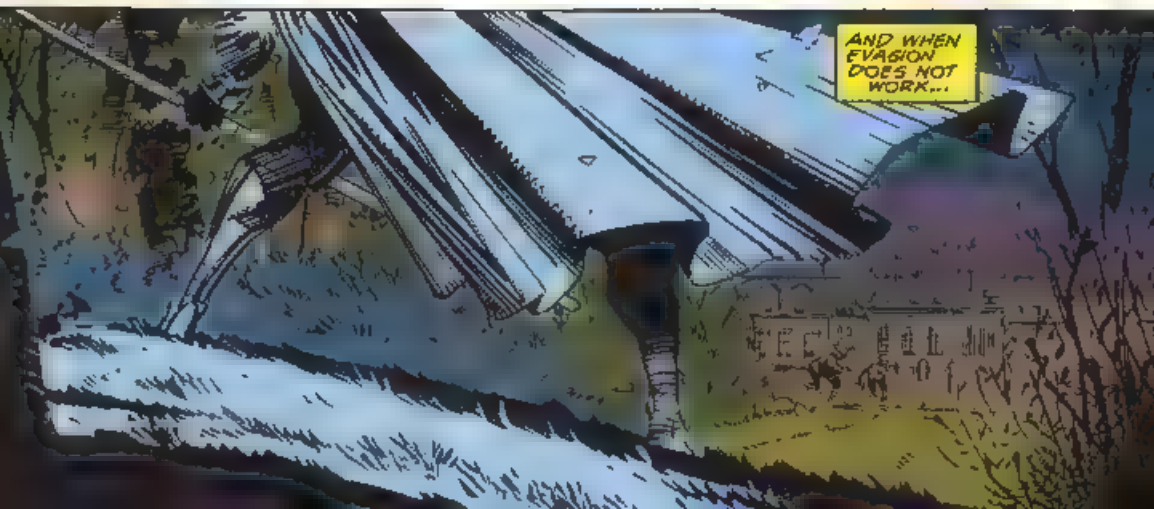
WHO  
KNOWS?  
PERHAPS  
ONE DAY  
SOON...



THE WOODS  
OUTSIDE  
SALEM CENTER...

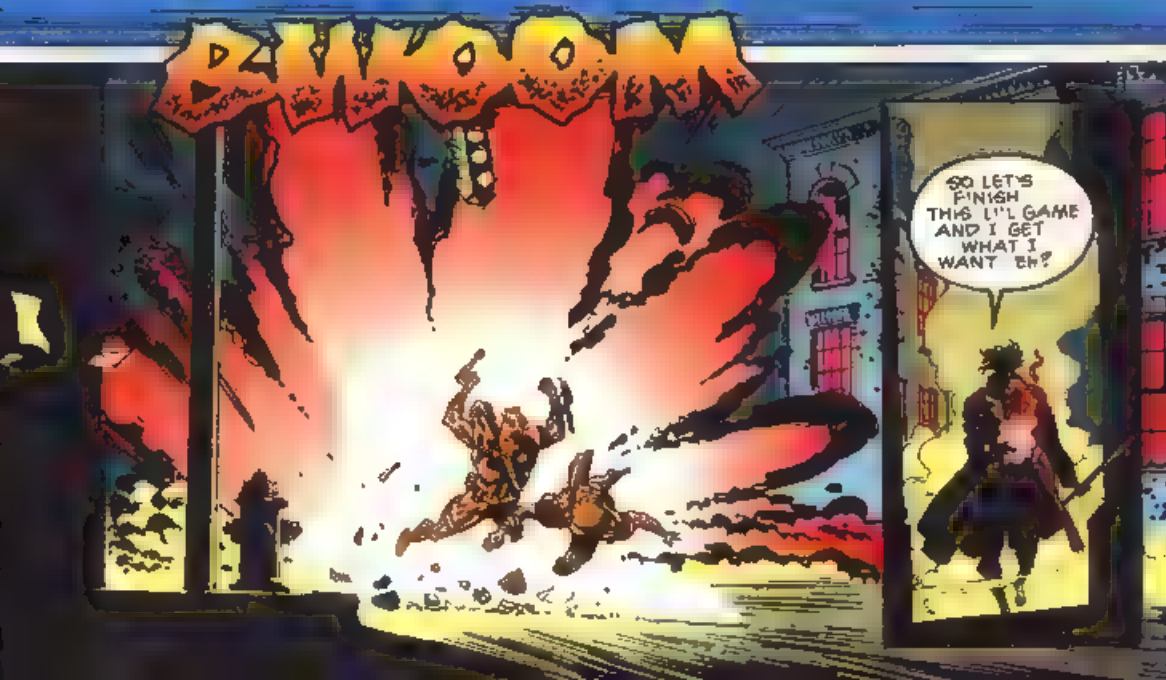
...ASSASSINS  
FLEE INTO THE  
NIGHT.

ADRENALINE  
COURSES THROUGH  
THEIR BODIES AS  
THEY SEEK TO  
EVADE THEIR  
PURSUER



AND WHEN  
EVASION  
DOES NOT  
WORK...

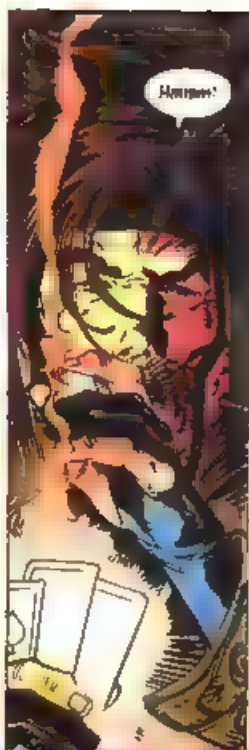




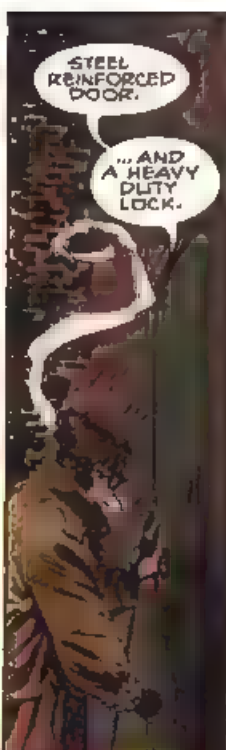




“AH! NOW  
WE PLAY  
HIDE AND  
SEEK?”



“Hmmm!”



“STEEL  
REINFORCED  
DOOR.”

“...AND  
A HEAVY  
DUTY  
LOCK.”



“A  
FORMIDABLE  
OBSTACLE...”



“IF  
YOUR  
PURSUER  
WAS NOT  
A  
THIEF...”



“...AND A  
MUTANT”



“PICKING  
A LOCK  
WAS NEVER  
SO EASY.”



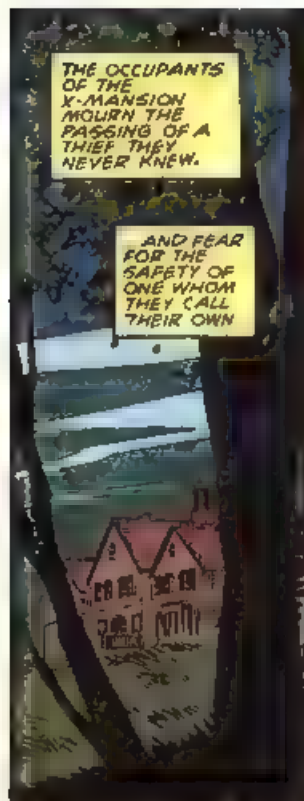
“IF  
NOT SO  
SUBTLE!”

“ARE  
YOU  
WAITING  
IN THE  
DARK FOR  
ME, AS-  
SASINS?”



“I'M  
COMING.”





THE OCCUPANTS OF THE X-MANSION MOURN THE PASSING OF A THIEF THEY NEVER KNEW.

AND FEAR FOR THE SAFETY OF ONE WHOM THEY CALL THEIR OWN



HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT, KID.

THERE'S MORE TO THE CAJUN THAN ANY OF US REALLY KNOWS.



I LOVE HIM, WOLVERINE.



YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A TELEPATH TO HAVE FIGURED THAT ONE OUT, DARLIN.

THIS THING HE'S DOING TONIGHT... HE'S GOT TO DO IT ALONE.

BUT AFTER TONIGHT, DON'T LET HIM BE ALONE AGAIN.

THERE'S SOMETHIN' BETWEEN YOU TWO.

MARIKO AND I HAD THE SAME.

DON'T WANT TO WAIT UNTIL CONDITIONS ARE PERFECT...



... 'CAUSE WITH THE LIKES OF US, THEY NEVER ARE.









CARDS  
WERE  
NOTHIN'  
BUT A  
DIS-  
TRACTION

... I WANT  
YOU TO SEE  
EVERY\*HING  
YOU GETTIN'  
HIT  
WITH.

YOU'LL  
KNOW  
WHERE  
EVERY BLOW  
IS COMIN'  
FROM...



... A  
CHANCE  
MY BROTHER  
NEVER  
HAD.



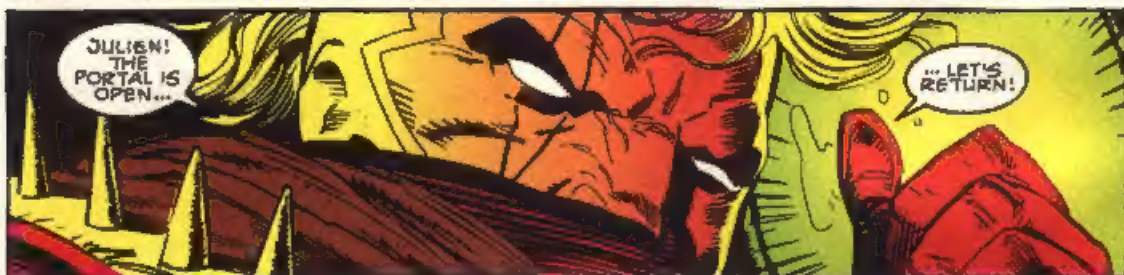
COME,  
KILLERS

WE'RE  
NOT DONE  
YET.











LATER...

HOW?

WE  
ALL SAW  
HER DIE!

EX-MEN  
-B.H.

WHAT'S GOIN' ON, GAMBIT?  
FIRST YOUR BROTHER,  
NOW BELLA DONNA... IS  
IT ALL TIED IN TO  
THIS TITING  
THING?

CAN'T  
BE ANSWERIN'  
THAT YET,  
PETITE. DON'T  
KNOW THAT I  
WOULD IF I  
COULD.

I'LL  
BE LEAVING  
FOR NEW  
ORLEANS TO  
GET SOME  
ANSWERS.

YOU  
NEED A HAND  
DOWN THERE,  
CAJUN...

"I'M  
ALWAYS UP  
FOR A ROAD  
TRIP DOWN  
TO THE BIG  
EASY!"

THIS  
T'ING IS  
FAMILY,  
LOGAN.

I  
UNDER-  
STAND.

WE ARE  
YOUR FAMILY  
AS WELL,  
GAMBIT...

...AND I  
AM NOT COM-  
FORTABLE WITH  
YOUR GOING  
OFF ON YOUR  
OWN.

HE  
WON'T BE  
TRAVELLIN'  
SOLO,  
PROFESSOR!

AH'LL  
BE WITH  
HIM ALL  
THE  
WAY.



NO.

YOU THINK  
Y'ALL ARE  
MAN  
ENOUGH  
TO STOP  
ME?

SOMEDAY  
YOU'LL FIND OUT  
JUST HOW MUCH  
OF A MAN I  
AM, CHERE!  
UNTIL THEN...

"...COME IF YOU  
WANT, BUT KNOW  
I AM GOING TO  
FIND OUT IF  
BELLA DONNA,  
MY WIFE, IS  
ALIVE.

AND YOU  
BETTER BE  
REAL SURE  
YOU'RE UP TO  
THIS ONE,  
CHERE!

THERE  
ARE SOME  
THINGS ABOUT  
ME THAT YOU  
MAY NOT WANT  
TO LEARN!

I'LL  
TAKE  
THE  
CHANCE  
ON THAT  
ONE,  
SUGAR!

**G**RAB YOUR BABIES,  
CREOLE MOTHERS.

SHUT YOUR  
DOORS AGAINST  
THE SPREADING  
FOG.

THE TITHE  
COLLECTOR  
WALKS THE  
STREETS  
OF THE  
FRENCH  
QUARTER.

BEWARE...

...THE  
TITHING  
TIME.

**TO BE  
CONTINUED**